

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 STR-04 OMB-01

TRSE-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 SAL-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-11 OES-03 FEA-01 /108 W

----- 025525

R 082154Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8459

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CA, VE, CU, MX

SUBJ: PM TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO CUBA, MEXICA AND VENEZUELA

REF: OTTAWA 3581

1. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH EXTAFF CUBAN AFFAIRS OFFICER, EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT PLANS FOR CANADIAN-CUBAN DISCUSSIONS AT TIME OF CANADIAN PM PIERRE TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO CUBA (JANUARY 26-29). EXTAFF OFFICIAL SAID THERE WAS NO FIXED AGENDA, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD DISCUSSED WITH CUBAN EMBASSY GENERAL TOPICS WHICH MIGHT COME UP. MOST OF THESE ARE OBVIOUS: CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN CUBA'S FIVE YEAR PLAN, CUBAN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RUM, SUGAR AND TOBACCO IN CANADA, LAW OF THE SEAS ISSUES, APPLICATION OF US TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT AND US EXPORT REGULATIONS, AND SIMILAR TOPICS. EXTAFF OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT CUBA MAY RAISE THE ISSUE OF AMERICAN SUBSIDIARIES NOT BEING PERMITTED TO IMPORT CUBAN GOODS; HE MENTIONED THAT CUBA HAS NEVER RAISED THIS PROBLEM AND SURMISED THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE CUBA PREVIOUSLY WAS NOT

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AWARE OF IT. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED

IF CBUA DID RAISE IT THIS TIME.

2. WHEN ASKED IF ANY "POLITICAL" TOPICS, SUCH AS OAS CHARTER REFORM MIGHT COME UP, OFFICIAL SAID THAT CUBA ALWAYS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CANADA WAS INFINITELY WISE FOR NOT JOINING OAS AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO REITERATE THAT VIEW. BUT OTHERWISE, OAS NOT EXPECTED TO BE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION. (AMEMBASSY REPORTING RELATED CONVERSATIONS RE CANADA-CUBA-ANGOLA IN SEPTEL).

3. IN SUM, ACCORDING TO EXTAFF OFFICIAL, CANADA HOLDS VIEW THAT CUBA NEEDS CANADA TO GIVE IT LEGITIMACY, PARTICULARLY IN CARIBBEAN, TO SHOW THAT IT IS NOT TOTALLY RELIANT ON USSR (AND TO HELP IT DIVERSIFY AWAY FROM COMECON), AND TO SHOW THAT DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS CAN WORK TOGETHER PROFITABLY AND WITHOUT RANCOR.

4. OAS CHARTER REFORM OBVIOUSLY EXPECTED TO COME UP DURING MEXICO PART OF JOURNEY (JAN 23-26) AND IN CARACAS (JAN 29-FEB 2). IN FIRST INSTANCE, MEXICANS ARE EXPECTED TO PRESS CANADA ON OAS, AS THEY ALWAYS HAVE. IN CARACAS ENERGY AND TRADE OBVIOUSLY EXPECTED TO DOMINATE. PM WILL ADDRESS MEETING OF CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR LATIN AMERICA (CALA) WHICH FORTUITOUSLY WILL BE MEETING IN CARACAS AT TIME OF PM VISIT.

5. IN GENERAL, ACCORDING TO EXTAFF OFFICIAL, ENTIRE TRIP IS LESS DESIGNED TO FURTHER SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, SIGN AGREEMENTS OR CONCLUDE OTHER BILATERAL BUSINESS; RATHER, TRIP IS OPPORTUNITY FOR PM TO SHOW CANADIAN INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA, TO ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEADERS OF COUNTRIES VISITED, AND JUST POSSIBLY TO THAW A FEW CANADIANS BONES IN THE MIDST OF THE OTTAWA WINTER. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA00071
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760007-0733
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760175/aaaacpfa.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OTTAWA 3581
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO CUBA, MEXICA AND VENEZUELA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CA, VE, CU, MX, (TRUDEAU, PIERRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006